

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended to obviate the examiner's rejections.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Staiger, U.S. Patent No. 3,619,478.

The examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

The applicants' invention is directed to a pin support fixture which comprises an upper apertured foil and a lower apertured foil. The foils are maintained in a spaced apart relationship wherein the apertures of each foil are in registration. A plurality of pins have a support end and a base end, and wherein the support end passes through an aperture in the upper foil and the base end rests against a backing plate.

On the other hand, the Staiger patent, '478, is directed to an interconnection device. The device has some geometric similarities with that of the applicants' however there are no functional similarities between the two. The Staiger patent teaches a method for permanently fixing two conductive elements using an intermediate apertured array of contacts. There are specially designed apertures which are not designed to be viewed through as in the applicants' application. As viewed in the figures of the Staiger patent, it is clear that aperture designs have small areas removed, but keep the main metal foil material in place to afford staking and biting engagement between the foil apertures and the pins which are inserted. Furthermore, the Staiger patent '478 teaches a permanent attachment method to join two conducting circuits using an apertured foil. With the size of the apertures in Staiger, it is extremely difficult if not

impossible to view the pins through the fixture as indicated by the examiner. It does not appear possible that the connecting element of Staiger '478 could be used in the method that the applicants' invention is used including viewing the pins through the apertures and removing the pins and then rearranging them. It is important to note that in the applicants' invention, over 70% of the apertured foil be removed for "see through" function. Whereas, the Staiger patent teaches an opaque pin structure and mostly covered (not seen through) aperture foil, there is no mention of reusability in the Staiger patent and there is no mention or means for easily disassembling and rearranging the pins. The applicants' invention clearly achieves a reusable function with a very simple aperture fixture. Thus, the applicants' invention is not anticipated in view of Staiger '478.

Claims 3-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Staiger '478.

As independent claim 1 is patently distinguishable from the prior art references, the remaining claims dependent therefrom are also patently distinguishable.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the amended claims and the claims dependent there from are in proper form. The Applicants respectfully contend that Staiger, U.S. Patent No. 3,619,478, does not anticipate the claimed invention under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112 or 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Thus, claims 1-3 and 5-6 are considered to be patently distinguishable over the prior art of record.

The application is now considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arlene J. Powers", written over a horizontal line.

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